

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of installing software in a system, comprising:
2 during an installation procedure, providing a user prompt to request entry of a key;
3 determining whether an entered key is proper;
4 in response to determining that the entered key is proper, installing the software in the
5 system and storing the entered key; and
6 in response to determining that the entered key is not proper, installing the software in
7 the system and enabling activation of first code to prompt for entry of the key at a later time.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 executing the first code; and
3 during execution of the first code, providing another prompt for entry of a second key.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:
2 determining, by the first code, whether the second key is proper; and
3 not executing the installed software in response to the second key not being proper.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, further comprising storing the second key in a registry in
2 response to the second key being proper.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein executing the first code is performed during a startup
2 procedure of the system.
- 1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
2 during execution of the installed software, providing a prompt for entry of a second
3 key.

1 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
2 determining whether the second key is proper; and
3 stopping execution of the installed software in response to determining that the second
4 key is not proper.

1 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 during execution of the installed software, providing a prompt for entry of a second
3 key;
4 determining whether the second key is proper; and
5 stopping execution of the installed software in response to determining that the second
6 key is not proper.

1 9. A system comprising:
2 a processor; and
3 a storage containing installation code for operating software executable by the
4 processor, the installation code when executed to cause the processor to:
5 provide a prompt to request entry of a first key;
6 determine whether the first key is proper;
7 in response to determining that the first key is proper, install the operating
8 software and store the first key in the storage; and
9 in response to determining that the first key is not proper, install the operating
10 software and enable activation of first code to prompt for entry of a key at a later time.

1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the first code comprises startup code executed during
2 a startup procedure of the system.

1 11. The system of claim 9, wherein execution of the first code causes the processor to:
2 provide another prompt for entry of a second key; and
3 determine whether the second key is proper.

1 12. The system of claim 11, wherein execution of the first code causes the processor to
2 further:
3 in response to determining that the second key is proper, enable execution of the
4 operating software and store the second key in the storage; and
5 in response to determining that the second key is not proper, not execute the operating
6 software.

1 13. The system of claim 12, wherein the first code is part of the operating software.

1 14. The system of claim 12, wherein the first code is part of startup code executable
2 during a startup procedure of the system.

1 15. The system of claim 9, the storage to store a registry containing the first key stored in
2 response to the first key being proper.

1 16. An article comprising at least one storage medium containing instructions that when
2 executed causing a system to:
3 during an installation procedure, provide a user prompt to request entry of a key;
4 determine whether an entered key is proper;
5 in response to determine that the entered key is proper, install the software in the
6 system and store the entered key; and
7 in response to determine that the entered key is not proper, install the software in the
8 system and enable activation of first code to prompt for entry of the key at a later time.

1 17. The article of claim 16, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system to
2 further:
3 execute the first code; and
4 during execution of the first code, provide another prompt for entry of a second key.

1 18. The article of claim 17, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system to
2 further:
3 determine, by the first code, whether the second key is proper; and
4 not execute the installed software in response to the second key not being proper.

1 19. The article of claim 18, wherein executing the first code is performed during a startup
2 procedure of the system.

1 20. The article of claim 19, wherein the instructions when executed cause the system to
2 further:

3 during execution of the installed software, provide a prompt of another key in
4 response to the entered key and the second key not being proper.